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Editorial

Further advance the revolutionary movement in the face of the US' war of aggression and intensifying reaction



The regime is taking full advantage of the US' "anti-terrorism campaign" to put in place various antinational and anti-democratic policies and measures. It is the regime's objective to stifle and persecute its perceived enemies, stem the advance of the revolutionary movement, suppress the people's growing resistance to the dictates of US imperialism and oversee its interests and those of its imperialist master.

In this regard, plans are afoot to enact the National ID system. The new proposal is even more vile than that of the previous regime because the Macapagal-Arroyo regime plans to give the US access to information gathered through the system.

The AFP and PNP budgets have gobbled up a far bigger share of the proposed government budget for 2002. The 25% (or P19.8 billion) increase in the AFP and PNP budgets is second to the 40.1% hike (or P44.3 billion) in the budget allocation for servicing the foreign debt.

Meanwhile, at the prodding of the militarists and fascists behind it, the regime has arbitrarily stopped the continuation of the peace talks between the NDFP and GRP. Their cunning objective is to proceed with the further intensification of attacks against the revolutionary movement and the militarization of the people's army's base areas, such as those being currently waged along the Nueva Ecija-Aurora border, in Mindoro, Bohol and Northeastern Mindanao, before the

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talks are resumed.

Macapagal-Arroyo has shamelessly been manifesting her puppetry to US imperialism and her defilement of the nation's sovereignty. As soon as the war broke out, the puppet regime declared its openness to the unlimited use by US troops of the country's main airports and seaports and its entire airspace. The regime has also offered other forms of assistance such as the sending of Filipino troops, doctors, medicines, food and others.

It has allowed direct US intervention in the war against "local terrorists" with the entry of "counter-terrorism specialists" from the US to supposedly serve as advisers to Filipino troops. Aside from the war against the Abu Sayyaf, these "advisers" will also intervene in the war against the revolutionary movement and the armed struggle waged by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The 26-man team of "advisers" has already gone to Basilan and is set to go around all other major AFP camps in the country. To suppress revolutionary armed resistance, US war materiel have also been brought into the country.

Macapagal-Arroyo has also been shamelessly boasting of her being US imperialism's most slavish puppet in the entire Asia-Pacific. She has paraded herself as the US' "number one" supporter in Asia of the US' war of aggression in the face of the refusal by leaders of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation to endorse the US' attack on Afghanistan.

All of this has resulted in the further trampling of the people's human rights. Even now, violations of the AFP, PNP and the regime's paramilitary forces have further intensified. In the regime's very short span of existence, its violations have become more despicable than in the two years of the ousted Estrada regime.

Accompanying the thorough surrender of the nation's sovereignty is the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's complete sacrifice of the people's welfare to further serve the interests of imperialism and its local ruling class allies. Recently, workers were granted a P30 allowance (to be given in two installments). This is a grave insult in the face of the rapid deterioration of the workers' livelihood and their call for a solid P125 hike in the daily wage.

Neither has the regime listened to the demand of peasants for the country to withdraw from its commitments to the imperialist policy of "globalization" and the World Trade Organization, stop the conversion of agricultural lands and implement genuine land reform. The regime also turns a deaf ear to protests by rank-and-file government employees against the International Monetary Fund- and World Bank-dictated privatization of more government corporations and agencies and the dismissal of 100,000 government employees.

IN THE FACE OF ALL THIS, IT IS THE DUTY OF THE PARTY AND THE entire revolutionary movement to further arouse and organize the

people, advance the mass movement and armed struggle against US imperialism and local reaction, expand the national united front, further weaken reaction and achieve more revolutionary victories.

Further advance the people's struggles, especially those of the toiling masses. Pursue and advance the struggle for the just P125 increase in the workers' daily wage, antifeudal struggles and protests against "globalization", privatization and other antipeople policies of US imperialism and the government.

Give particular emphasis to our duty to directly arouse, organize and mobilize the Moro people both in the countryside and cities for the national-democratic revolution and the realization of their right to self-determination. Let us further our political work among their ranks to sharpen their growing anti-US sentiments and win over the latter towards the correct revolutionary path. Along with this, let us continue developing and strengthening the current revolutionary alliance between the National Democratic Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Advance the broad movement against the intensified trampling of the people's democratic rights in the name of the "anti-terrorism campaign". Advance protests against violations of human rights and the non-implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and the regime's proposals and plans to further repress the people's democratic rights. Expose, assail and oppose the US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime's clearly dominant militarist agenda and policies.

Further intensify tactical offensives of the people's army especially in areas where current enemy deployment is relatively sparse due to the enemy's need to concentrate on its main targets of attack.

Expand and empower the movement against imperialist war. Expose and oppose imperialist exploitation and suppression as the biggest scourge creating the most massive unrest and wreaking the greatest havoc on countries and peoples the world over. Firmly oppose and resist the US attack on Afghanistan and expose the unbridled destruction wrought by the US on the Afghan people.

Advance the struggle to abrogate the Mutual Defense Pact and other agreements and policies that would make the Philippines a tail of US imperialism's policies. Advance a genuine, independent and peace-loving foreign policy. Advance the Filipino people's all-sided anti-imperialist struggle and firmly link this with the emerging worldwide movement against imperialist aggression and reaction. **AB**

The US' war of aggression in Afghanistan



Under cover of darkness, US and United Kingdom (UK) warplanes started bombing Afghanistan's main cities on October 7. This was followed by further bombings in the next few days.

According to US propaganda, the bombings were aimed at "crushing the air defenses and command centers of the Taliban". Thus, "military targets" which were actually civilian airports and roads and other infrastructure were indiscriminately bombed.

The US bombed the village of Karam because it was allegedly a Taliban storage area for guns and ammunition. On October 16, US bombs hit the Red Cross' warehouses in the village. Two warehouses full of supplies that the Afghan people desperately needed were razed to the ground. A guard was also wounded. Another Red Cross warehouse was hit by the US in the fourth week of October.

In launching this war, the US flaunts its nonrecognition of a people's basic rights of sovereignty and independence against foreign intervention and aggression. It despicably uses the slogan "Enduring Freedom" even as it violates the rights and destroys the livelihood of the Afghan people, who are among the world's poorest and most oppressed. Prior to this, the slogan "Infinite Justice" was arrogantly used but later recalled after it reaped numerous negative reactions.

The US' haughty objective is to impose its imperialist power over Afghanistan and the Central Asian region.

The destruction wrought by the bombing campaign on what is left of Afghanistan's infrastructure has been thorough and extensive. Already backward conditions in cities have further deteriorated. As early as the second day of the bombings, US and UK warplanes had begun running out of targets.

Civilian targets. Contrary to US propaganda that bombs have precise targets, most of them actually miss their targets. As of the second week of the bombings, 400 civilians had been confirmed dead, including children and women and four United Nations workers. But according to witnesses, the number of dead has already reached 800 or more.

On the second week of the bombing campaign, the US deployed B-52 bombers to look for mobile targets (such as Taliban and al Qaeda "troops") and to

THE DESTRUCTION WROUGHT BY THE BOMBING CAMPAIGN ON WHAT IS LEFT OF AFGHANISTAN'S INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BEEN THOROUGH AND EXTENSIVE. ALREADY BACKWARD CONDITIONS IN CITIES HAVE FURTHER DETERIORATED.

drop cluster bombs, which scatter 150 smaller bombs upon impact. The Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations condemn and prohibit the use of cluster bombs because they affect large areas and because most of the smaller bombs do not immediately explode. They explode only if stepped on by a human or an animal. Compared to landmines, they kill more people because they explode over a wider area.

With the US' failure to kill bin Laden despite the all-out military campaign, the Pentagon has recommended the use of nuclear arms to bomb al Qaeda strongholds. The US insists that its use will only be "tactical" and against "specific" targets. The US last used nuclear arms when it bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan in 1945, killing more than 100,000 people.

Starving and "feeding". The US boasts that its food and medicine drops are forms of "assistance" to civilians affected by their war. Within a week, military planes dropped 110,000 food rations (an average of 16,000 per day). In fact, this is a senseless campaign that can hardly meet the daily needs of eight million Afghans who will go hungry because of the war of aggression. There is likewise the danger of the packages landing in areas packed with landmines. There are more than 10 million

landmines in Afghanistan.

The US has criminally ordered a halt in the distribution of food and other aid by international humanitarian organizations and neighboring countries to force the Afghan people to rely on aid provided by the US military. Because of this, an estimated one million Afghans will die of starvation and poverty in the coming winter. Even before the war of aggression, more than 3.8 million Afghans were already dependent on food aid. If the entry of new supplies is stopped, 320,000 Afghans will have nothing to eat within a week's time. In December, 1.6 million people will run out of food. The United Nations has already raised its estimate of the number of people who will be in need of assistance this year, from 5.5 million to 7.5 million (or a third of Afghanistan's population). The "first war" of the millennium is quickly turning into a genocidal war.

It is evident that the food drops are sheer military propaganda. The US does them to justify the bombings ("the Taliban's air defenses must be crushed before any food drops can be done peacefully") and cover up the violence wrought by its war of aggression on civilians. It is also using the food drops to woo the Afghan people. On the packaged food are the words "gift of the American people to the Afghan people". The US also drops pamphlets and wind-up radios along with the food.

The pamphlets carry the picture of an Afghan shaking the hand of an American soldier. On the other hand, the radios are designed to broadcast from only one station (which is run by the US military) to prevent the Taliban from using it for its own broadcasts.

Forced evacuations. At least 1.1 million Afghan are estimated to have left their homes immediately after the US declared war on Afghanistan. Most of them journeyed to the borders of neighboring countries to escape the US and UK attacks. But most of them will be refused entry and forced to return to congested refugee camps inside Afghanistan. Even before the bombings started, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan had already positioned soldiers along the Afghan border to block the flow of refugees. The US has ordered the Pakistani government to likewise close its own borders on the pretext that bin Laden's men might mingle with the traffic of refugees. Iran has also been pressured by the US to close its border with Afghanistan. **AB**

WHAT IS THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE?

THE US CURRENTLY SUPPORTS THE Northern Alliance, a group of warlords and fanatics based in a small area in northern Afghanistan. The US and UK admits that it would be difficult and bloody for them if they were to launch a ground war. So instead of sending thousands of American troops (which is costly and sure to fail), they will arm the Northern Alliance and conduct the war from the Pentagon and MI-6, the UK's intelligence agency.

The Northern Alliance which the US supports as a replacement for the Taliban is composed of small groups that the Taliban expelled when it seized power in most of Afghanistan in 1996. The Northern Alliance was previously supported and armed by the Russian, Irani and Saudi Arabian governments.

There is no basic difference between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance, which the US wishes to put in power. Like the Taliban, the Northern Alliance has a long and heinous record of criminal activities in Afghanistan. Neither party respects human rights and the rules of war. In more than 10 years of civil war led by the two camps, summary executions, arson, theft, rape and other crimes against humanity have been the norm.

Most of the Northern Alliance's crimes were perpetrated before 1996, when it still controlled Kabul, the capital and political center of Afghanistan, and most of the country's northern portion. The Northern Alliance continues to violate the human rights of the Afghan people, particularly of the Pashtuns, the ethno-linguistic base of the Taliban:

Latter part of 1999 up to

early 2000. Northern Alliance forces perpetrated massacres, burned down houses and plundered the villages within and around Sangcharak district for four months. Most of the targets were Pashtuns and Tajiks.

September 20-21, 1998. A market located on the northern side of Kabul was bombed, killing 76 to 180 people.

Latter part of May 1997. Three-thousand Taliban soldiers within and around the area of Mazar-e-Sharif were captured and killed. Some of the soldiers were brought to the desert where they were shot while others were thrown into wells and blasted with grenades.

January 5, 1997. Junbish airplanes bombed crowded areas of Kabul. The Junbish is a group within the Northern Alliance. A number of civilians died and many more were wounded.

March 1995. Northern Alliance troops plundered and raped in Karte Seh, Kabul. According to reports from the US State Department itself, the troops systematically robbed houses and looked for women to rape.

February 11, 1993. Jamiat-i Islami and Ittihad-i Islami, both groups within the Northern Alliance, bombed the western area of Kabul. Many ethnic Haraza civilians died and disappeared. The troops also raped women.

1994. Up to 25,000 people were killed by the Northern Alliance in Kabul. Groups under it likewise perpetrated rape, summary executions and illegal arrests. The Northern Alliance's use of torture on captured Taliban soldiers is widespread. **AB**

Protest actions against war of aggression and reaction continue in the Philippines

On October 10, more than 1,000 workers, peasants, urban poor, women, youth and Muslim groups belonging to the Justice Not War Coalition (JWC) once again rallied in front of the US embassy in Manila to protest the US military attacks on Afghanistan and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's support for these actions.

"With the way Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been unhesitatingly defending the US and Britain's war of aggression against Afghanistan, she has proven herself to be the primary puppet of US imperialism in Southeast Asia," explained Ka Mameng Deunida, leader of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay).

On October 3, member organizations of the JWC sponsored Oplan Tanghalian for a number of politicians, Moro community leaders, church-workers, artists and professors. They also issued the call for a P125 across-the-board wage increase ►



More and more Muslims and other peoples of the world are seething with anger over the indiscriminate, arrogant and hypocritical war of aggression that the US and the United Kingdom have launched against the people of Afghanistan. In different parts of the world, people in their numbers have continued to pour out into the streets to condemn and oppose this war of aggression. Out of anger, hundreds of thousands of Muslims have already declared their readiness to wage war against the US.

On October 15, protests greeted US secretary of state Colin Powell during his visit to Pakistan to “strengthen” US-Pakistani relations. In the cities of Karachi and Quetta, hundreds of thousands



Seething anger against the US and UK governments

protested, including students, businessmen and other middle forces.

In other areas of Pakistan, thousands have been launching daily protests to show their anger over the US and the puppet Musharraf government. The demonstrations often end up in bloody confrontations where many are killed and even more are arrested. Musharraf has already issued a direct order to shoot down “violent” protesters. He has also ordered the arrest of the leader of the Islamic Party and charged him with treason.

From Indonesia and Bangladesh, to Palestine, Egypt, Sudan and Kenya, Muslim youth are pouring out into the streets to express their opposition to US

aggression and their readiness to join the jihad to defend their religion and their Muslim brothers and sisters.

IN Egypt, 20,000 students went out of their universities carrying placards with slogans that expressed their hatred of the US. Hundreds of students also protested in front of the Indonesian parliament. The protesters, most of whom were women in veils, were dispersed by the police by exploding tear gas bombs. Due to the intense protests, Indonesian president Megawati Sukarnoputri has backed down from her all-out support for the US’ war.

Muslims in Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand likewise launched protests. In Bangladesh, violent demonstrations exploded in different parts of the country. Some members of parliament have outrightly expressed opposition to US aggression. In Oman, students ►

◄ for workers and put forward the slogan “*dagdag na sahod at pagkain sa mesa, hindi imperyalistang gera*” (more wages and food on the table, not imperialist war).”

Simultaneous with this protest action, rallies, noise barrages and gatherings were held in the cities of Baguio, Naga, Cebu, Iloilo, Dumaguete, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, General Santos and Davao.

In Bacolod, Moro communities condemned the US-led war because the US, they said, had no strong evidence that Osama bin Laden was behind the criminal attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11. According to representatives of Muslim Brotherhood, Inc., Muslims all over the world are opposed to US bombings against the major strongholds of the Taliban. The Moros also stated that they support the jihad declared by the Taliban. They said that they threw their support behind the Taliban-declared jihad as soon as they learned that their Muslim brothers and sisters were being affected by the bombings.

In Iligan, a peace rally was launched by Christians and Muslims on October 10 to protest all forms of terrorism against innocents.

In Lanao, around 10,000 Maranaos decided to join the Taliban-declared jihad to help defend the civilians among their Muslim brothers and sisters who were being trapped by the US war.

In separate assemblies in Mindanao, the Catholic church disapproved of the US’ targetting of civilians, and stated that “the roots of terrorist action must be specified in order to find a long-term solution to the problem”. The church also said that “if we seek justice, we ourselves must not become terrorists.”

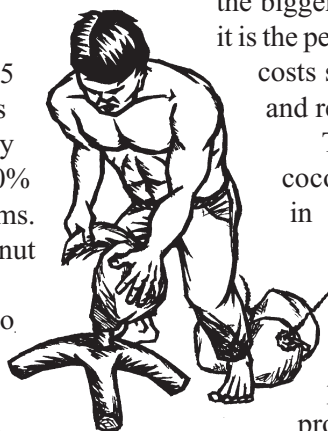
Before this, the Justice Not War Coalition launched a week-long protest from September 25-30. It began with a Gabriela-led women’s march on September 25 at Mendiola, which was considered a preparation for the International Day of Action against the US war of aggression in Afghanistan that was launched on October 27 (October 28 in the Philippines). **AB**

The plight of coconut farmers and farmworkers in Bicol

In the face of the continuous decline of the coconut market and industry in the country and in the whole world, coconut farmers continue to sink to the depths of poverty. In spite of this, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime has done nothing to look after their welfare. The following article describes the miserable state of coconut farmers in Bicol.

Landlord monopoly of coconut lands. There are around 2.5 million families (3.4 million farmers and farmworkers and their 16.6 million children) in the entire country dependent on coconut production for a living. Only 20% or 500,000 of these families have their own coconut farms. Meanwhile, only 50,000 families own 80% of all coconut farms in the country.

Because a large majority of coconut farmers still do not have their own land from which they could eke out a living, they are perpetual victims of brutal feudal and semifeudal exploitation, and are forced to live lives



of abject poverty and backwardness.

In Bicol, 663,443 hectares or 37% of the entire region are planted to coconut. The 1,226.2 hectares “distributed” since 1987 under the pro-landlord Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law do not even constitute 0.2% of coconut lands in Bicol.

Because land control and ownership remain monopolized by landlords, the latter are able to dictate how the proceeds from coconut production are shared. The most common type of sharing are 60%-40% and *tersyuhan* (2/3-1/3). In both types, it is the landlord who rakes in the bigger share. In most coconut farms, it is the peasants who shoulder production costs such as wages for farmworkers and rent for carabaos.

Thus, most of the 300,000 coconut farmers and farmworkers in Bicol remain poor. On the other hand, landlords, the comprador bourgeoisie and foreigners who invest in copra production and other coconut products rake in massive profits. ►

◀ went out into the streets to call on Arab and Islamic nations to stop supporting the US.

In Africa, anti-US protests were launched in Sudan, Nigeria and Kenya. Violence erupted in these demonstrations, with hundreds killed and many more arrested.

In the US and other parts of the world

Even before the bombings started, Americans in Los Angeles (20,000), Washington (20,000) and thousands in San Francisco had already been launching rallies under the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER) coalition. Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-USA is part of ANSWER. Thousands also rallied in Canada,

Australia, the UK and other parts of the world, including the Philippines, to call on Bush to stop his jingoism.

In New York, scene of the terrorist attacks, 10,000 people marched on October 7, the first day of the US bombings in Afghanistan. On that day, 5,000 people also marched to the center of San Francisco and within 48 hours, thousands of Americans spontaneously expressed their anger and opposition in streets and universities in different parts of the US. On October 8, some 6,000 people marched in Athens and Thessalonica in Greece.

From October 11-16, different groups in Florida, Massachusetts and California in the US, Canberra

in Australia, Tokyo and Hiroshima in Japan launched a series of protest actions against US aggression and its overall military strategy.

On October 13, some 50,000 people marched in the streets of London (UK), while 75,000 rallied in Germany under the banner of “No war-stand up for peace”. On October 14, more than 150,000 people marched along the 24-kilometer stretch between the city of Perugia to Assisi in Italy to condemn US aggression and the support it enjoys from Italy’s president. Carrying anti-war placards, the marchers expressed their condemnation and opposition through slogans and songs. It was the country’s largest demonstration in 10 years. AB

Declining market and price of coconut products.

The world market for coconut products has long been shrinking. The main reason for this is the growing competition posed by other vegetable oils. Palm oil and palm kernel oil are the primary competitors of coconut oil. Even the Macapagal-Arroyo government plans to implement a program for the commercial planting of palm trees by businessmen from Malaysia and Brunei on 100,000 hectares of land in the Philippines. This program will only accelerate the decline of the country's coconut industry.

Due to the contraction of the world market for coconut products, the price of coconut products are always on the low. It would be good if the price per kilo of copra reaches P6.00. In 1996, it only went up to an average of P3.50 per kilo. At present, it is pegged at merely P4.50-P5.50. Even middle and rich peasants are victims of the depleted price of copra.

Aside from the fact that copra prices have slumped due to a shrinking market, the price of copra is further reduced by 15-25% to allow for *resiko* (redrying in order to remove the remaining moisture in copra) The actual price reduction is arbitrarily set by copra traders.

In about 1.5 hectares of coconut farmland, a poor tenant farmer is usually able to harvest 2,400 pieces of coconut every 45 days. This yields 600 kilos of copra. With each kilo pegged at P5.50, a peasant's gross income would amount to P3,300. If 15% or P495 is deducted for *resiko*, the balance to be divided between the farmer and landlord would be P2,805. Under the *tersyuhan* system based on gross earnings, the landlord rakes in P1,870. From the P935 left for the farmer, he still has to deduct production costs. Even without deducting any amount from his share, the farmer's average daily disposable income until the next *gusi* (harvest time) would merely be P20.78, only 5.4% of the estimated P382.63 daily cost of living outside Metro Manila. In order to earn more, the peasant is obliged to work as a farmworker or look for other means of livelihood.

Slave wages for coconut farmworkers. Coconut farmers' wages are pegged

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at very low rates. With the fall of copra prices, farmworkers' wages also fell. On a piece-based wage system, farmworkers are paid 30 centavos for picking, 10 centavos for gathering and 15 centavos for husking. A landlord or rich peasant usually pays a farmworker 60 centavos per piece for the entire process—from picking to gathering the copra in sacks. If a farmworker is able to engage in the entire process per *gusi* for 2,400 pieces of coconut, for example, he earns P1,440. From this, the farmworker would have an average of P32 daily to feed and support his family.

Widespread land conversion and dislocation. In April, the official unemployment rate in Bicol stood at 11.7%. This is set to worsen in the face of the rampant cutting of coconut trees and land conversion.

Despite RA 8048 or the Coconut Preservation Act of 1995, which supposedly forbids the cutting of productive coconut trees, millions of trees are cut each year for cocolumber, and due to land conversion and other reasons.

Around 1.315 million hectares or 74.62% of the entire Bicol region is set to be converted and transformed into mines, factories, commercial plantations and other agribusinesses, commercial complexes, golf courses, resorts or "development projects".

Injustice regarding the historic coco levy problem. Up to now, farmers not only continue to be denied the coco levy funds. Macapagal-Arroyo has formally repealed Estrada's pro-Cojuangco executive order regarding the coco levy, but House Speaker Jose De Venecia is now maneuvering for the return of these funds to Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco. Aside from this, the courts just this June dismissed one of the seven cases against Cojuangco regarding the illegal acquisition of the coco levy funds. Cojuangco used the funds to buy the United Coconut Planters Bank and San Miguel Corporation.

Coconut farmers bear a mounting load of problems. With the continuing decline of the coconut industry, there is worsening poverty among the people whose lives depend on it. The regime remains blind and deaf to their plight. The problems of the coconut industry can be resolved only through a strategic, radical expansion and transformation in agriculture and of the entire political economy in coconut lands. In this process, antifeudal and other mass struggles focused on each of the specified problems must be launched in order for the mass of coconut farmers to attain immediate relief from abject poverty. **AB**

People's struggles against Lepanto Mines

The Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corporation (Lepanto Mines) in Mankayan, Benguet has been massively extracting natural resources and superprofits. In turn, the people of Mankayan and surrounding areas, most of whom are Kankanaey Igorots, suffer from the destruction of their ancestral lands, their lives and livelihood. Following is the story of the various struggles of the people of Mankayan and other surrounding communities against the gigantic and powerful Lepanto Mines.

FOR THREE MONTHS IN 1999, THE Barangay Bulalacao Movement for the Protection of Land, Life and Natural Resources or BBM rallied and set up barricades in Barangay Bulalacao, Mankayan to prevent Lepanto Mines from going through with its drilling operations in Sitio Tabbac, Bulalacao. The drilling was to have been conducted by Lepanto Mines' subsidiary, the Diamond Drilling Corporation of the Philippines. The residents launched this action to prevent the renewed loss of irrigation water. In the 1960s, farms in Caew, Colocol and Manaba were deprived of irrigation after Lepanto Mines drilled a total of 123 holes near their source of water. In 1995, angry villagers blasted Lepanto Mines' drilling equipment in the barangay.

Because Lepanto Mines

allegedly suffered losses due to the barricade, the company filed charges of violation of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 against the mass leaders of Tabbac and Bulalacao Central. Undaunted, the residents of Tabbac launched various mass actions. Villagers from Bulalacao Central also stood by their neighbors in the court battle. In December 1999, the court decided that Lepanto Mines should no longer continue its drilling operations and that the barricades should also be lifted. Despite this, the people maintained their vigilance against any attempt by the company to push through with its drilling. They filed petitions with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and dialogued with local officials to draft resolutions on the issue. Barangay officials also sent a resolution to Lepanto Mines and DENR, stating that they had never agreed to Lepanto's mining in the area, contrary to the company and DENR's claims.

In August 1999, residents of Barangay Poblacion formed the Mankayan Sinking Victims Association or MSVA. They filed petitions against Lepanto Mines,

DENR and other government offices, complaining that the land beside the 60-meter stretch of Aurora St. in front of the entrance to Lepanto Mines, on which rows of houses stood, had sunk by more than three meters. The land on which the Mankayan Central School stood had also sunk, and at Sitio Panad, the land on which the Mankayan National High School stood bore fissures. All this had rendered the schools too risky for use. According to former workers, the sinking and fissures were due to a maze of criss-crossing tunnels built by Lepanto Mines beneath the village. Lepanto had long abandoned the tunnels but failed to fill them up.

In 1999, the Colalo Victims Association was organized. This was after a school, five houses, farms and part of the Mankayan-Cervantes national road were destroyed due to the sinking of 14 hectares of land near the catchment basin of Lepanto Mines' Tailings Dam 5-A in July 1999. The dam itself bore fissures. A villager was buried alive and his body was never found. The same dam also obstructs the flow of several natural springs at the foot of the mountain,

transforming Colalo into a virtual swamp. Scores of houses here and in adjacent Barangay Cabiten, as well as large farms near the dam, are in danger of caving in, more so because the company continues to raise the height of the dam using soil dug up from Colalo and Cabiten. Even though two years have



passed since the first landslide in Colalo, the land continues to quiver, especially in Sitio Letangan. The CVA has protested by sending out petitions and has demanded indemnification from the local government and Lepanto Mines. Although Lepanto Mines refused to claim responsibility over the incident, it was compelled to extend "assistance" to the people for "humanitarian reasons". When Lepanto Mines again attempted to dig up more soil to fill up the dam, the CVA set up barricades along the company bulldozer's path and allowed it to leave only after company officials and representatives promised never to do any digging again.

In February 2001, the CVA was transformed into the Colalo Residents Organization (CRO) to accommodate other residents aside from the victims of sinking and to

expand the organization's program. With the BBM and Mankayan Leaders' Forum or MLF, the CRO sponsored the celebration of the historic Cordillera Day 2001 in Colalo. During the celebration, the people of Mankayan shared their experiences with other peoples of the Cordillera and with visitors and supporters from other parts of the country and the world. They learned from one another's experiences and drew more support for their struggle.

Residents of Cervantes, Quirino and other nearby towns in Ilocos Sur, through which the Mankayan River flows, as well as people of nearby towns in Abra where the Mankayan and Abra Rivers converge have now joined cause with the people of Mankayan. Farms beside these rivers and intersecting springs used to be bountiful but have gradually dried up. The soil had been poisoned after rivers laden with tailings thrown in by Lepanto Mines for decades overflowed towards the farms. Farms

which had become unproductive were eventually abandoned by the peasants.

The farmers in these areas filed a case against Lepanto Mines as far back as the early 1980's but have not received a single centavo from the company. In 1999, the peasants convinced the Sangguniang Bayan (SB) of Cervantes, Ilocos Sur, to pass a resolution calling for an investigation of the Lepanto Mines dam and the suspension of its further elevation. The SB also endorsed the petition of the residents of Mankayan, Cervantes and other surrounding communities to oblige the company to prevent the dam from collapsing.

In early 2000, many mass leaders of Mankayan had begun analyzing the situation and concluded that it would be insufficient for the people's struggles to remain spontaneous, decentralized and confined to the level of the community. Thus, during the anniversary of the Colalo landslide in July 2000, the people of Mankayan convened a broad-based assembly to tackle the matter. The assembly summed up the people's experiences and drew lessons. They unanimously decided to organize a municipal association to launch bigger struggles. The Mankayan Leaders' Forum was established. Since then, the MLF has been continuously launching municipal-wide activities that confront and dissect the various tactics resorted to by Lepanto Mines in various barangays, in order to come up with counter-tactics. It has propagated issues on mining through the media and various fora and sponsored dialogues between farmers and mine workers to promote understanding and cooperation between the two sectors instead of having them contradict one another as Lepanto Mines wishes. The organization of workers' unions has begun inside ►

The Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corporation

(LCMC or Lepanto Mines) in Mankayan, Benguet is one of the largest imperialist companies in the country. It was established in 1936 from 150 consolidated mining claims in Mankayan by investors from the US led by big mining prospector Victor Lednicky. In 1980, it took possession of a huge reservoir containing 650 million tons of copper porphyry, a type of ore composed of 65% copper and 1.33 grams of gold per ton. Aside from its 949-hectare concession in Mankayan, it has a pending application to operate on another 2,652 hectares.

Since it was founded, the company has extracted 743,000 tons of copper, 92 tons of gold and 390 tons of silver. In 1995, it discovered a very rich reservoir of gold in the Victoria ore body in Mankayan and initiated the Victoria Gold Project. After six decades of concentrating on copper mining, Lepanto Mines has become the biggest gold miner in the country. Because of this, the company is sure of reaping superprofits for another 25 years.

Lepanto Mines currently employs 2,374 workers. Instead of promoting its workers to become regular employees, Lepanto hires workers from an employment agency. Four agencies have been supplying Lepanto Mines with contractual workers.

Agrarian revolution advances in Cagayan Valley

Agrarian revolution is vigorously advancing in several guerrilla fronts of Cagayan Valley. After suffering from serious setbacks due to errors of adventurism and insurrectionism, and after a period of conservatism in the first years of the Second Great Rectification Movement, agrarian revolution is now vigorously undertaken in the region as the key link in advancing the mass movement in the countryside. Following are reports of victories in agrarian revolution achieved in the Reynaldo Piñon Front in Isabela and the Venerando Villacillo Front in Quirino.

More than 1,000 families benefit from agrarian revolution in Isabela

More than a thousand families in the Reynaldo Piñon Front in Isabela have benefited from vigorous agrarian revolution campaigns. The campaigns became the key to achieving victories in the political

and organizational fields. As a result, organizing committees have been set up in 11 barrios.

The campaign started gaining momentum July 2000, and like a prairie fire, its flames and fervor have quickly been spreading to nearby areas.

Wage increases comprised the biggest victory achieved by the



people in the agrarian revolution campaign. The daily wage of farm workers was raised by P10 to P20 for tasks like weeding, cutting, harvesting, applying fertilizer and planting. For plowing, wages rose from P120 to P150-P160 per day. About 990 families or 4,940 individuals in 11 barrios benefited from this campaign.

Peasant associations were able to demand the P10 increase during barangay assemblies. Prior to this, the organized peasants firmly united on the need to raise wages. The campaign was waged simultaneously in adjacent areas. The peasant ►

◀ the company and in some of its subsidiaries.

LEPANTO MINES STUBBORNLY REFUSES TO ADMIT responsibility for the destruction of Mankayan. Instead, it pins the blame on the “unstable character of the municipality’s soil”. Once and only once did the company admit its crime, but not without branding the residents of the sunken Sitio Pinagayan in Barangay Sapid as “squatters”. It even bragged before the media that it had extended financial assistance towards the victims, despite the fact that it was merely compelled to do so after being pressured by the people’s protest actions.

Lepanto Mines employs AFP and PNP elements to defend its operations and infrastructure in Mankayan. The Nayak Twine Decline entrance is guarded by a squad from the PNP Special Mobile Force. Meanwhile, the dam in Cabiten is secured by the military and CAGU who harass the residents of the area. Lepanto Mines also conspires with local politicians and government agencies to ensure its continuous operation in the face of the people’s intensifying and escalating protests.

Simultaneous with this, Lepanto Mines launches campaigns of deception through the use of “development projects” and makes it appear that the company is pro-environment and has fine relations with the residents of communities where it operates.

But not a single scheme by Lepanto Mines has succeeded in averting the people’s struggles.

JUST LAST MAY, THE MLF WAS able to pressure the Sangguniang Bayan to back off from passing Resolution 243, which allows the further expansion of the Victoria Gold Project in Mankayan. This was attained by continuously filing petitions and demanding a dialogue with local and national officials.

The struggle of the people of Mankayan and surrounding communities still has a long way to go. There are many struggles to be confronted and won. But with their numerous gains and small victories, the people have high hopes that in the end, they will defeat the giant that has been devastating their ancestral lands, their lives and livelihood. **AB**

Coming out with *Kalatas* while conducting mass work

The direct and sustained involvement in mass work of comrades in the *Kalatas* staff is an old policy and practice that has been reaffirmed at reestablished in Southern Tagalog these past few months. The small staff of *Kalatas*—the regional revolutionary mass paper in Southern Tagalog—is based within a guerrilla zone to enable it to undertake mass work and establish its own base of operations even as it conducts propaganda work for the entire region.

The *Kalatas* staff is integrated into a regular mass work unit. Jointly, the two groups compose a squad—the minimum necessary workforce for the conduct of mass

organizing, military and propaganda work. In periods when the staff concentrates on its main work—publishing *Kalatas*—the other members of the mass work unit are able to ensure that mass work goes on uninterrupted in their area.

Immersion among the masses and integration into the mass work unit have greatly helped the comrades in *Kalatas* in their direct investigation of the practical work of the Party, the people's army and the revolutionary movement in a guerrilla zone. This has helped them a lot in their propaganda work in terms of coming up with correct descriptions about the concrete life, conditions and struggles of the people's army and the masses, the main target audience of *Kalatas*—thereby enriching the

◀ associations were also able to win allies among some members of the barangay councils.

In a number of villages, wages were likewise raised by confronting certain landlords and encouraging rich peasants to grant the peasants' demands.

Along with the campaign to raise wages, *ammoyo* or mutual aid teams, as well as other cooperative systems, were revived and consolidated in order to lessen high production costs and loans.

Rental for the use of rice mills was lowered from P20 to P18 per can of palay (equivalent to approximately 17 kilos). About 180 families or more than 900 individuals in five barrios benefited.

In two barrios, owners of village stores selling overpriced goods were convinced to lower prices with due consideration for fair profit.

A barrio-wide mass action to lower interests on loans was likewise successful. A local usurer was convinced to lower interest rates per harvest by 50%. From 30%, interest

was lowered to only 15%. Eight families immediately benefited.

Organized masses in three villages also successfully resisted deceptive government projects such as the Community Based Forestry Program or the DENR's Social Forestry Program that are, in essence, systematic means of landgrabbing.

Success in raising banana prices in Quirino

Organized peasants in the Venerando Villacillo Front (VVF) in Quirino province are waging militant action to advance the campaign to raise the prices of their products, particularly bananas. They are also mobilizing to eradicate fraudulent practices in the counting of bananas, which further decrease the amount paid for their products. The prevailing fraudulent method of counting enables the merchants to acquire for free one to two bananas or every piece of banana they pay for.

In the first quarter of 2001, prices of bananas were raised higher than the 50% minimum target at the start

of the campaign.

Prices were raised weekly for a period of eight weeks. *Lakatan* prices were raised by a minimum of P5 per week. Prices rose from P65 per hundred to P119. For *damilig* (saba), prices were raised by 100%, from P35 to P70 per hundred

About 60 poor peasant families in a village benefited from this victory. More are expected to benefit as the campaign is waged in other barrios.

The revolutionary movement is also currently raising the peasants' organizational level and political consciousness. The peasant organizations are in the process of transformation into effective cooperatives. With this aim in view, there are efforts to consolidate the organizing committees of the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM or the National Peasant Association, the national democratic underground mass organization for the peasantry) and establish the full-fledged mass organizations in the barrios. **AB**

content and style of the newspaper's articles and illustrations.

This has also greatly helped in the continued remoulding of the writers of *Kalatas* (who are largely from the petty bourgeoisie) and in developing their revolutionary consciousness and militancy as well as in keeping them down-to-earth.

During times when the *Kalatas* staff is primarily engaged in mass work, it undertakes, together with other members of the mass work unit, all its attendant tasks—from the conduct of social investigation to launching tactical offensives. In having a tactical area of operations, comrades in *Kalatas* are also able to develop a base for their own operations and to broaden their contacts in neighboring town centers. As they expand their area of operations and contacts, they are able to depend on more and more activists and allies to assist them in various

IMMERSION AMONG THE MASSES AND INTEGRATION INTO THE MASS WORK UNIT HAVE GREATLY HELPED THE COMRADES IN KALATAS IN THEIR DIRECT INVESTIGATION OF THE PRACTICAL WORK OF THE PARTY, THE PEOPLE'S ARMY AND THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN A GUERRILLA ZONE.

tasks. They are also able to tap more facilities needed for publishing *Kalatas* and in implementing other responsibilities.

For the past year and a half, *Kalatas* has been able to come out with its quarterly publications regularly (but belatedly). It has also come out with special issues this year and the year before.

Nevertheless, the staff is still in the process of determining how to correctly balance and efficiently blend its two responsibilities, to avoid pitting one against the other as much as possible. It is clear that the staff's main priority is to come out with *Kalatas* and perform other regional propaganda tasks, except during times of military emergency. While the staff publishes *Kalatas* within the framework of conducting mass work and employing guerrilla tactics, a high level of flexibility is necessary with respect to the staff's integration within the mass work unit and its participation in mass work, so as not to limit their ability to perform their regional propaganda tasks.

The staff has endeavored to perform the larger portion of its work with respect to writing and coming out with *Kalatas* while integrating with the mass work unit and overcoming limitations. They plan and discuss the content and flow of articles and write them by hand before encoding them into a computer. The staff also finds time for making illustrations and doing some amount of editing.

Nonetheless, every once in a while, the *Kalatas* staff needs to detach itself to undertake tasks that necessitate the use of a computer, to use facilities that run by electricity and to stay in a relatively stable place for periods ranging from a few days to more than a week. Now and then, they also have to use resources and services like the internet, which is available only in town centers or cities.

The staff still has to resolve its difficulty in accessing data, experiences and policies from different parts of the region's revolutionary organization and mass movement—from the provinces down to guerrilla fronts and white areas. In this regard, there is a need to overcome the limitation posed by the fact that the staff is confined to a particular guerrilla zone and faces attendant problems with respect to maintaining smooth correspondence lines from the guerrilla zone to other organs and units of the region from which they must gather information.

The regional propaganda staff in Southern Tagalog faces many challenges. There is much that can and needs to be done. Among these challenges are to come out with *Kalatas* issues on time and to decisively resolve the problems and issues that have been cited. **AB**



Response to the enemy's continued attacks in Central Luzon

Resolutely carry forward and master guerrilla warfare

The enemy is densely distributed in, and actively pursues, the revolutionary movement in Central Luzon. The 7th ID of the Philippine Army (PA) is directly focused on the region. Under this division are two brigades of the PA: the 702nd Bde to which the 70th IB and 71st IB belong, and the 703rd Bde to which belong the 69th IB and 24th IB. The 68th IB based in Laur, Nueva Ecija, serves as the division's strike force.

The 702nd Bde's area of operation includes the Sierra Madre mountain range in Central Luzon. The 71st IB focuses on the provinces of Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and eastern Pangasinan. The 70th IB on the other hand is focused on Aurora, the only province in Central Luzon where an entire battalion has been concentrated. The 703rd Bde on the other hand is assigned to provinces around the Tarlac-Zambales mountain range.

The current regime has added the 54th IB (which was pulled out from the north) to the forces deployed in the region. The 54th IB's area of responsibility includes the entire stretch of Dalton Pass from Nueva Ecija to Nueva Vizcaya.

The headquarters of the Special Operations Command (SOCOM)

which has operational control over the Scout Rangers and Special Forces of the PA, is based in San Miguel, Bulacan. The 34th SR, a Scout Ranger company based in Balanga, Bataan, focuses on the portion of Manila Bay that lies within Central Luzon. Air Force troops based in Floridablanca, Pampanga and the Special Action Force of the PNP in the region are also active in counterrevolutionary operations.

Detachments in the plains are positioned far from each other and are thinly spread while those in mountainous areas like Aurora are more densely posted.

Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGU) are continuously being formed in Central Luzon, to augment the reactionary military's troop strength. Aside from

the funds allotted for it by the regime, politicians in the region also fund CAFGU units in order to utilize them as private armies.

The enemy is usually also accompanied by criminal and bandit grouplets in the region during pursuit operations against the NPA. These are

the "Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan" (Revolutionary People's Army) or RHB, the Baguisa grouplet and the "Rebolusyonaryong Gerilya sa Arayat" (Revolutionary Guerrillas of Arayat) or RGA. These grouplets are actively employed in conducting surveillance operations against the revolutionary movement and mass base.

Army intelligence forces maintain a heavy presence both in mountainous areas and in the plains. The Military Intelligence Group operates independently in various areas in Central Luzon. The enemy's infantry forces depend on this intelligence agency. Aside from the MIG, enemy units also have their own intelligence networks. One example is the 3rd Intelligence Service Unit (ISU), which like the MIG operates independently, and the 65th Military Intelligence Company (MICO), which is under company formations of the PA. It actively recruits assets and organizes them into barrio intelligence networks or BIN in areas where modified special operations teams or MSOT are assigned.

Combat units pass the information they gather to the division's intelligence units. Plans of attack are drafted based on such data. Operational plans of the division are swiftly implemented due to the presence of its strike force. While small combat operations are being launched by detachment units, the division is able to launch strike operations.

The Macapagal-Arroyo regime has opened Clark, Subic and other areas in Central Luzon to joint military exercises of



American and Filipino troops. In support of the US attacks against Afghanistan, the regime has also opened Clark and Subic for refueling and as transit points of US war planes and ships.

UNDER THE CURRENT REGIME, THE list of violations of human rights perpetrated by the reactionary military in Central Luzon has grown. There are more and more cases of massacres and summary executions of NPA members and the masses. Abductions, illegal detention, harassment, intimidation, searches, the imposition of curfew and the abuse of women have become rampant.

It is but right for the people of Central Luzon to resolutely assail and resist the reactionary military's violations of their rights. In July, residents of Barangay Nabuklod, Floridablanca, Pampanga led by the Central Luzon Aeta Association, repeatedly picketed to demand the pullout of the abusive 24th IB from their area.

IN THE FACE OF HEAVY ENEMY deployment and continued enemy attacks against the revolutionary movement in the region, the regional committee of Central Luzon has issued reminders to, and defined the tasks of, the NPA in order to correctly resist the enemy's assaults.

- It is our duty to master guerrilla warfare. Do not expose guerrilla units especially to bad elements. Familiarize yourself with those who live around the house you are based in. Avoid staying for long periods in constricted areas and avoid creating patterns of movement. Meticulously study the place you are based in, especially in expansion areas. Aside from

having a good plan of action, come up with an appropriate defense plan based on the terrain, troop strength and firepower. During battle, analyze the situation sharply and always seize the initiative.

- Launch tactical offensives to annihilate the enemy bit by bit and to confiscate arms. Conduct good intelligence work.
- Form intelligence networks both in consolidated and expansion areas. It is necessary to know the enemy and its movements in depth. Simultaneous with the development of our intelligence network, the intelligence network of the enemy must be identified and demolished.
- Organize or further strengthen the main fighting units on the regional and provincial levels. There is a need to establish and constantly ensure that the command on the guerrilla front level operates daily. The key to mastery is constant training and improving on old skills and methods, especially in the face of changing circumstances.

EXEMPLARY INTELLIGENCE AND TACTICS have been important factors in launching some of the region's tactical offensives.

The NPA in Nueva Ecija's Front 2 successfully raided a PNP detachment in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya in November 2000 even if the latter was outside its area of responsibility.

On June 5, an armed propaganda unit in northwestern Pampanga also successfully disarmed Filipino soldiers who were escorting American troops participating in joint exercises conducted by the AFP and US Armed Forces under the VFA. **AB**

Reproduction and distribution of Ang Bayan

Combining mass movement and modern technology

Experiences with regard to how comrades value Ang Bayan (AB), and how they deliver, reproduce and distribute it were shared with AB in recent interviews conducted in a number regions. From their accounts, it was noted that comrades, the masses as well as allies warmly support AB. In general, AB is actively reproduced, distributed and used as study material. Nonetheless, the task of reproducing and distributing AB can be further improved if certain problems that need to be resolved are confronted. With the objective of drawing lessons, AB recounts the experiences of various organs and units in this regard.

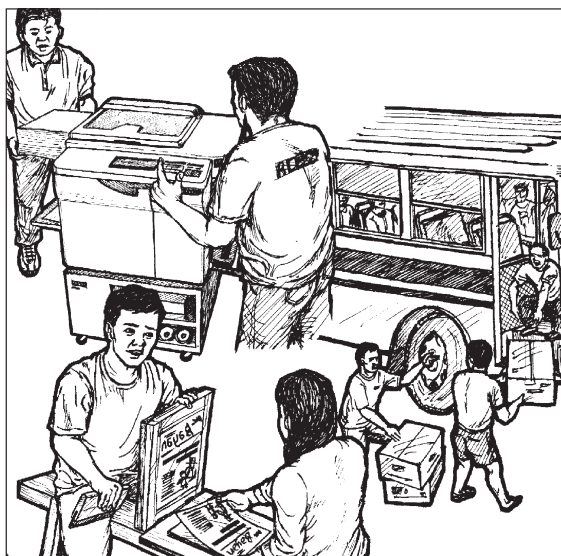
Speedy release and distribution of AB using the internet. Recently, AB has been coming out more promptly and more frequently to enable the Party to exercise its political leadership amid the rapid pace of events in society and the revolution. Towards this end, AB has effectively employed the internet so that AB issues and other revolutionary propaganda could be readily downloaded anywhere in the country or the world where internet access is available.

The majority of regions and leading organs and even some committees and staffs on the provincial and guerrilla front levels already have the capability to get their own copies of *AB* from the internet. They are able to instantly reproduce and distribute *AB* to other units. Only a few continue to rely on the clandestine communication lines of the Party for their copies of *AB*. Even among them, the thrust is to raise, up to the guerrilla front level, the ability of forces and units to use the internet prudently and safely.

Different means of reproducing *AB*. The printing of *AB* and other revolutionary propaganda is done in various ways based on the capability, resources and situation of Party units, the people's army and mass organizations. Comrades and the masses are able to combine the use of modern means for faster, high-quality and mass reproduction and the launching of a mass movement to ensure that *AB* could be reproduced in a reliable, secure and simple way even by a small unit on the most basic level. *AB* is reproduced by means of v-type, mimeographing machine, photocopier, computer printer and offset printing machines and digital duplicators (better known as Riso).

In Bicol, although there are some units that employ advanced means of printing, the v-type method and the mimeographing machine are the primary means of reproducing *AB*, *Silyab* (the regional revolutionary mass newspaper) and other revolutionary propaganda. The device for v-type printing is made up of a piece of silk screen stretched across a wooden rectangular frame. Ink is manually spread and squeezed across a piece of stencil attached to

the silk screen, and onto a piece of paper attached to the other side of the screen. Because most NPA units in the region have the capacity and resources for this system, the task of reproduction is effectively and quickly carried out by the organization's rank and file. They are thus able to print a sufficient number



of copies for the Party, NPA units and organized masses.

The masses' active participation is the key in the reproduction of *AB* and other revolutionary propaganda using this method. Cooperation between the people's army and the masses is commonplace in the various stages of reproducing written propaganda. This ranges from the procurement of supplies, the actual printing via v-type, provision of security while printing, up to the distribution of the printed material to comrades and the people's army, the masses and allies. Teachers, professionals and others who live in the countryside but work in offices play a big role in purchasing paper, stencils and ink and in borrowing mimeographing machines from schools.

In other regions, *AB* and other revolutionary reading materials are

reproduced in commercial offset printing presses owned by allies or run by organized workers. In one region, comrades maintain a network of printing presses, alternately utilizing each part of the network. By means of this system, reproduction is speedier and the quality and readability of copies is ensured.

Several regions now also use digital duplicators.

In the urban centers of most regions, the use of mimeographing machines, photocopiers and computer printers is also common. There are some who use offset printers and digital duplicators for mass production. Revolutionary reading materials are also being reproduced by individual Party members, allies and friends in their offices or schools using photocopiers or computer printers. These are distributed individually to friends, classmates or fellow office workers.

Speedy distribution of *AB* copies in guerrilla zones. Through a broad and dynamic mass movement, one region was able to achieve a breakthrough in solving the problem of slow and centralized distribution of *AB* copies and its local revolutionary newspaper to the basic levels of the Party, the people's army and the organized masses. Copies from the printing press are brought to designated drop points. From there, mass activists are responsible for the entire process of ensuring that thousands of copies of revolutionary publications are safely and swiftly packed into parcels, transported and distributed to all Party units, the people's army in the provinces, guerrilla fronts and sections and to the revolutionary mass organizations in their respective barrios. Even the delivery of copies

to allies and the mass media are shouldered by mass activists. Many drivers and conductors of public utility vehicles are also relied upon to secure, transport and deliver these packages. The entire process of distribution is completed within three days.

It is important for various regions to study this experience in order to see how it can be implemented based on their specific conditions.

AB as study material. *AB* is warmly welcomed as an important tool in studying the analysis and standpoint of the Party on burning issues and as a guide to action for comrades and the revolutionary masses.

The formal study of entire issues or selected articles of *AB* is a regular activity among army units. *AB* serves as an instrument for the consolidation of the Party down to the basic levels. Because it now comes out more frequently (monthly), *AB* is now better able to help readers monitor and analyze issues and political developments in the country as well as world events. "We strongly feel the Party's leadership in the revolution and the mass movement, and this serves as a guide for comrades," said other comrades.

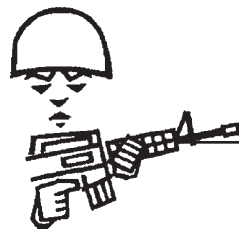
Comrades also pointed out that its more pleasing presentation has livened up and made *AB* easier to read. As an example, they cited the shorter articles and sentences and the illustrative and delightful drawings.

In the Ilocos-Cordillera region, *AB* is also used as material for comrades' literacy lessons. Pupils are asked to pick out an article, and the latter is used for literacy exercises. Drawings are used by instructors as visual aids in other educational activities.

In the same region, territorial organs always make sure that teachers in their areas as well as in nearby places are given copies of *AB*. Teachers use *AB* as reference material. Copies of *AB* can also often be seen in the libraries of some schools.

Propagating the contents of *AB* through local radio stations and local newspapers. In Cagayan Valley, some articles of *AB* have been broadcast in their entirety by certain radio stations that have access to a wide area of Northern Luzon and even nationwide. For example, a local radio station featured *AB*'s special issue published in July on the punitive action conducted on the fascist Col. Rodolfo Aguinaldo. The entire issue was serialized by Bombo Radyo and broadcast by all of its stations nationwide.

Aside from this, two local newspapers publish from time to time entire *AB* articles as well as statements from other national and regional organs of the Communist Party of the Philippines. **AB**



FASCIST STATE ON A RAMPAGE

Cases of human rights violations (July-October 2001)

October 21. Seven troopers of a composite team from the PNP-SAF 1st Bn and PNP-Region 4 who were conducting patrol operations led by Insp. Erickson Dilag, tortured and summarily executed four civilians in Sitio Casunugan San Isidro, Barangay San Jose, Antipolo, Rizal after accusing them of being Red fighters. The victims, who were hunting in the forest when they were killed, were Raul Magisa, 40; Emiliano dela Rosa, 46; his son Reynaldo, 26; and Dominador Anacleto, 30, all residents of Antipolo. All of them were shot at close range. Their skulls had been bashed in, their bodies bore stab wounds and hack marks and their fingers were broken. In a tight fix because of the incident, the PNP fabricated charges and even bragged about the four shotguns they confiscated, which the victims had used to shoot wild boar.

October 17 and 18. Vigilante killings of suspected criminals are once again prevalent in Davao City. Killed on October 17 in Davao City by motorcycle-riding vigilantes were Sammy Jagonos and Wiseley Castrudes, both 17. The next day, Felcris Serojales, 19, was also killed. More than 300 members and supporters of the Kabiba Alliance for Children's Concerns condemned the killings while commemorating the death of other youth killed in Davao City since 1995.

October 13. Ananias Tahuyan, 50 and Rodolfo Dazing, 42, supporter and member, respectively, of the San Luis Bukidnon Native Farmers' Association were killed in San Carlos, Bukidnon. The San Luis Bukidnon Native Farmers' Association fights for the Manobos' right to their ancestral lands. This was the latest in a series of killings of members of Manobo organizations. In early September, Samuel Bento, head of the Tribal Organization of San Jose in Maramag, Bukidnon, was killed. On September 27, the house



FASCIST STATE ON A RAMPAGE



of Ananias' brother, Datu Marcial

Tahuyan, was strafed.

Ananias' wife Virginia was seriously wounded. In the first week of October, a government official threatened to shoot the minorities if they continued with their struggle.

October 9. Seventy armed and truncheon-wielding policemen under the Philippine Economic Zone Authority violently dismantled the picketline of workers of the Triple Eight Garments Manufacturing Corp.. The workers, most of whom were women, were on the fifth month of their strike. Triple Eight Garments is located at the Cavite Exporting Processing Zone in Rosario town. The police first attempted but failed to dismantle the workers' barricades by ordering scabs aboard a van and motorcycle to penetrate their ranks. The policemen then bombarded the workers with water cannons, until company officials ordered the demolition of the workers' makeshift huts. Eight women were wounded.

October 9. The Bulacan PNP seized Robert Veterbo, Nonato de Guzman, Virgilio Valdez, Igmidio Villanueva, Faustino Isidro, Bobet Francisco and Teodoro Flores in Barangay Calumpang, San Miguel. The PNP accused the seven men of being NPA members. In truth, the victims are mere farmers from the barangay.

October 8. Around 40 policemen including SWAT elements and Department of Agrarian Reform

(DAR) guards violently destroyed the picketline of farmers belonging to Task Force Mapalad-Negros who were rallying in front of the DAR in Quezon City. The farmers were waiting for Sec. Nani Braganza who had promised to dialogue with them when the police and guards dispersed them. Many farmworkers were injured in the dispersal.

October 8. Elements of Task Force Banahaw murdered a Mangyan tribesman identified as Lando Cabagay, 40, barangay captain of Bonbon, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro, and Bayan Muna leader Roger Fernando. Within the same week, soldiers of the 204th Infantry Brigade arrested Rigmay Maranggat, leader of the Samahang Pantribo ng mga Mangyan sa Mindoro, while she was doing her marketing in Roxas town, Oriental Mindoro.

September 20. 1st Scout Ranger Regiment and 56th IB troops ambushed and summarily executed Wilfredo Mananghaya, chairperson of Bayan Muna in San Miguel and member of the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Bulacan. He was among those opposed to quarrying and illegal logging in their town.

September 7. Elements of the CAFGU and Philippine Marines killed and desecrated the remains of Ibno Mallaji, a coconut farmer suspected to be a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Sumisip, Basilan. He was on his way to a mosque when seized by the troops. After allegedly confiscating an MILF ID from him,

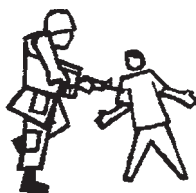
he was dragged inside a hut, tied to a rock and hit with the butt of an armalite rifle. Nails were rammed through his thighs and his shoulders were hacked. He was shot in the head. The fascists even burned his body. Ibno's family is among the 78,736 people forcibly evacuated since the AFP launched its "attacks" against the Abu Sayyaf. In a related development, 59 Moros were illegally arrested, and nine others were summarily executed. One of the victims was executed

right inside a PNP station in Basilan.

In the latter part of August, the same troops forcibly evicted, mortared and robbed residents of Irreley, Guiong, Sumisip, Basilan.

August 20. Guards belonging to a security agency owned by Gov. Ayong Malicsi of Cavite went on a shooting rampage while conducting a demolition at around 10:30 p.m. in an urban poor community in Dasmariñas town. Three civilians were killed including Marilyn Mil, who was pregnant. Four others were wounded. They were among the 500 families forcibly evicted through the bloody demolition.

August 9-10. Soldiers belonging to the 22nd Special Forces Company abducted and summarily executed Johnny Kamareg, 55, a farmer in Betwagan, Sadanga, Mountain Province. He was abducted on August 9. On August 11, his body was found along an irrigation canal near his farm. The military alleged that he was a Red fighter killed in an encounter between the Philippine Army and the NPA.





FASCIST STATE ON A RAMPAGE



August 6. Elements of the SWAT and a 40-man demolition team demolished the houses of about 50 families in Indang, Cavite.

July 31. Elements of the 5th SFC and 4th SFB led by MSgt. Rolando Austria ruthlessly fired at the house of a civilian, where an NPA unit was suspected to be resting. The incident occurred in Sitio Malasena, Barangay Tala, Rizal, Laguna. Killed were Merly Guia Ybañez who was seven months pregnant with twins and her six-year-old son Christian.

July 26. Around 300 families were evicted from their homes in Pabahay 2000, General Trias, Cavite.

July 22. Milagros Belga, 41, a Karapatan volunteer worker, was shot to death by the military in front of her family at their house in Magdalena, Laguna. When Karapatan confronted the Philippine Army, the latter insinuated that the woman had been cooperating with them and blamed her death on the NPA.

July 10, 2001, dawn. Elements of the 417th PPMG and 1st IB strafed the house of Armando Arellano in Igang, Lucban, Quezon, killing Arellano. His wife Myrna was wounded in the back and shoulder. Also wounded were his daughters Jocelyn, 14, (shot in the right thigh) and Rochelle, 8, (who was hit in the buttocks). The military made it appear that the civilian they had killed was a Red fighter.

July 7 and 11. The PNP illegally arrested and detained until August 10 Eduardo Cacayuran (arrested on July 7) and Avelino Dacanay (arrested on July 11) in Bangued, Abra, on charges that they were involved in the killing of Conrado Balweg.

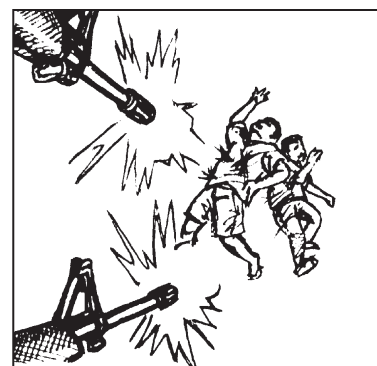
Killing of hors de combat

August 1. Two Red fighters were tortured and salvaged after they were encircled in Barangay Montelago, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. The soldiers also attempted to kill a youth who warned the fighters about the enemy's presence. Eman Florendo (Ka Minervo) was captured alive by a composite team from the 2nd Scout Ranger Coy and MIG 14 led by Major Capote

and 1 Lieutenant Fortuno. He was kicked, hit with rifle butts, dragged to a rocky area in a nearby lake, exposed to the heat of the sun while immersed in the water before being shot in the chest. Erwin Bacarra (Ka Elre), on the other hand, whose foot had been hit and was no longer capable of fighting, was shot repeatedly. Autopsy findings later revealed that his testicles had also been crushed. After the two comrades were murdered, their bodies were loaded into sacks like animals. The soldiers planned to have their bodies tied to a *banca* and dragged but were prevailed upon by the barriofolk to load them on the boats instead.

July 31. Herman de Castro (Ka Edwin) was killed after being abducted from the San Pablo Community Hospital where he was being treated. He had been wounded in his right arm in an encounter between the NPA and a Back to Basics Class 01-01 platoon in Sta. Lucia, Nagcarlan, Laguna on July 31, and was immediately brought to the hospital by comrades. On August 1, Lt. Col. Danilo Leyva and Sgt. Rodolfo de Guzman of Task Force Banahaw took him out, allegedly to bring him to the hospital in Fort Bonifacio. In order to bring Ka Edwin out, Leyva and de Guzman forcibly applied his thumbmark on the release papers that they had brought with them. Ka Edwin was never brought to Fort Bonifacio. On August 3, his body was found in Funeraria Guevara in San Pablo City.

July 26. Ka Miro (Dino Noroña, a Red fighter from Sta. Cruz, Laguna and the son of a retired military official) who was wounded after an encounter between the NPA and elements of the 59th IB in Sitio Pulong Bestre, Barangay Tungkod, Sta. Maria, Laguna, was purposely deprived of proper medical attention. He had not been seriously wounded, but comrades learned a few days later that he had died. **AB**





Macapagal-Arroyo's terrorist and mercenary AFP and PNP are running amok in the countryside

THE TERRORIST AND MERCENARY ARMED Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) so taken care of and loved by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo are unbridledly raining terror in the Philippine countryside. Killings and other forms of military operations currently being waged by the AFP and PNP against the New People's Army (NPA) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front-Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force (MILF-BIAF) are far more brutal and heinous. But it is ordinary people suspected by Macapagal-Arroyo's terrorists as part of the people's army's mass base who bear the brunt of the havoc wrought on lives and property and the wanton violations of human rights.

With every operation they undertake, the AFP and PNP make sure that civilians are drawn into the conflict, to terrorize the people who serve as the sea that the people's guerrillas swim in. Even with Macapagal-Arroyo's deranged all-out war (that Estrada had begun) against the Abu Sayyaf, those that sustain the greatest havoc are the helpless Moro civilians, lumad and Christians in the provinces of Basilan, Sulu and certain parts of Zamboanga.

It is in the countryside of Southern Tagalog where Macapagal-Arroyo's AFP and PNP have seemingly concentrated their heinous killings of Red fighters and captured *hors de combat*. Based on CARHRIHL (Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights

and International Humanitarian Law) and the international laws of war it advances, prisoners must be given medical attention and taken care of by whichever side captures them. But even innocent civilians suspected of being NPA supporters become victims of terrible havoc and killings in the hands of government terrorists and butchers.

These are clear indications that sowing terror through counterrevolutionary campaigns now called Internal Security Operations (ISO) is a systematic policy of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime.

Even if Macapagal-Arroyo has boasted of replacing Estrada's all-out war policy with an "all-out peace approach", it is clear from the data that attacks by the terrorist AFP and PNP on the NPA's guerrilla fronts have continued and have in fact intensified.

Macapagal-Arroyo's AFP is continuing the Estrada regime's Internal Security Operations (ISO) as the leading aspect of the counterrevolutionary campaign now known as Campaign Plan

Statement by Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal
Spokesperson, Communist Party of the Philippines

Balangai. This counterrevolutionary campaign has been strongly influenced by the "Back to Basics" orientation and other operational doctrines outlined by the US. The "Back to Basics" orientation is none other than the purely militarist reorientation of the AFP and PNP doctrine on counterrevolutionary campaigns and operations towards the use of the most brutal fascist means of suppressing the revolutionary forces and civilians believed to be aligned with or supportive of the revolutionary movement—a return to the most terroristic means of suppression implemented by the AFP during the fascist rule of the dictator Marcos. This doctrine sets aside civilian operations (such as Civilian Military Operations, SYP-type Special Operations Teams, the "development" phase of the Clear-Hold-Consolidate-Develop strategy and the like). They have completely discarded the "winning people's hearts and minds" orientation, saying that this is a job for civilian agencies. It is supposedly the ►





NEWS

PNP STATION, ARMY DETACHMENT IN AGUSAN SUR RAIDED

Twenty-five Red fighters under the Frank Navarro Command of the New People's Army (NPA) raided on October 8 a PNP station in Doa Maxima, San Luis, Agusan del Sur and a nearby Philippine Army detachment. According to *Lingkawas*, revolutionary mass paper of the North Eastern Mindanao region, the raid on the PNP station was successfully conducted within 20 minutes by the NPA, without firing single shot. After this, the NPA proceeded to a military detachment which was

unmanned at that time.

The Red fighters began the raid on the PNP station by disarming its guards outside while a flag ceremony was being conducted. After this, the NPA quickly encircled the station and disarmed the rest of the PNP troops. Confiscated from the PNP station were nine M16s, two M14s, two .45s, one 9 mm pistol, ammunition, a camera and a communication radio.

The police who had been disarmed were unable to call immediately for reinforcements because the Red fighters had also confiscated the station's communications equipment.

5 SOLDIERS DEAD, 2 WOUNDED IN BUKIDNON AMBUSH

Five soldiers were killed and two were wounded when NPA guerrillas ambushed a platoon of the 10th Special Forces Company of the Philippine Army. Among those killed was the company's commander Capt. Apollo Palasula. The soldiers were conducting a patrol when ambushed at Upper Balaas, Barangay Mabuhay, San Fernando, Bukidnon on October 27.

TARLAC PNP CHIEF AMBUSHED BY NPA

The NPA successfully ambushed Chief Supt. Arturo Tabustan, head of the Police Mobile Group of Tarlac province, on October 29. Tabustan was on his way to his office when Red fighters ambushed him at La Paz, Tarlac, around 7:00 am that day.

PUNITIVE ACTION LAUNCHED AGAINST MULTINATIONAL PLANTATION

On October 20, the NPA meted punitive action on Stanfilco, a giant plantation of bananas for export, in Barangay Buhay, Makilala, North Cotabato. Stanfilco is owned by Dole Philippines, one of the largest agribusiness multinationals in the world. The NPA burned down a warehouse containing 80 boxes of bananas for export, three weighing scales and one tractor.

◀ AFP's job to fight. Their preferred method of fighting is one that would showcase their military superiority. They have no qualms about involving civilians because this is supposedly a part of war. They leave civilian agencies to attend to those who may be drawn into the conflict.

With hardly a year in office, Macapagal-Arroyo has unleashed the ferocity of the entire AFP machinery to commit more heinous violations of human rights and launch attacks against the people. Even with the new regime in power for so short a time, human rights violations have become more vicious compared to those during Estrada's time. This is the only way Macapagal-Arroyo knows of

repaying the people who struggled to oust Estrada and paved the way for her ascension as the country's president.

And it is the mercenary, reactionary and thoroughly corrupt AFP and PNP that Macapagal-Arroyo so loves and always places at the top of her priorities (in terms of the budget and promotions) that are her leading instruments in attacking and sowing terror among the people. Like the Abu Sayyaf bandits, it is the AFP and PNP that are the real terrorists. The difference is that the Abu Sayyaf's main targets are those who could afford to pay ransom, while the mercenary and terrorist AFP and PNP victimize mainly the impoverished toiling masses. **AB**

AFP MAJOR KILLED IN OWN RAID IN NUEVA ECIJA

An AFP official was killed after leading an encirclement operation against an encampment of Red fighters on October 8 in Barangay Conversion, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

Maj. Roger Elijino, operations and intelligence officer of the 54th IB and member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1984, was seriously wounded and died eventually.

After their commander's death, soldiers of the 54th IB went on a rampage and vented their anger on the village fishermen.

NDFP GREETES COMMUNIST PARTY OF PERU-PATRIA ROJA ON 73RD ANNIVERSARY

The NDFP greeted the Communist Party of Peru (Patria Roja or Red Fatherland) on the latter's 73rd anniversary on October 7. In a statement, the NDFP said that the situations in Peru and the Philippines do not differ. It said that the people of the two countries both aspire for the victory of the national democratic revolution with a socialist perspective, as well as that of the struggle against US imperialism. The NDFP praised Peruvian communists for firmly advancing revolution.

FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK LAUNCH MASS ACTIONS AGAINST WTO

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) launched "Peasant Month" this October through a series of mass actions nationwide that targetted imperialism as a gigantic scourge afflicting farmers and fisherfolk.

In Metro Manila, bannered the slogan "JUNK WTO", close to 2,000 members of the KMP, Pambansang Samahan ng mga Mamamalakaya (PAMALAKAYA) and other peasant groups from Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog demonstrated on October 18 in front of the Department of Agriculture (DA) office. They protested the country's avid compliance with World Trade Organization (WTO) policies, which has resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of farmers and fisherfolk, threatens food security in the country, stifles local agricultural production and inflicts other forms of suffering on the peasantry.

The following day, the peasants marched towards Morayta to join a larger multisectoral formation. They proceeded to Malacañang, roared in opposition to the WTO and called for the implementation of genuine agrarian reform. Afterwards, the marchers proceeded to the US embassy to protest imperialist plunder and the war of aggression against Afghanistan.

On October 18 and 19, the second Church Peasant Conference was also launched, where bishops, priests and nuns in Metro Manila actively participated for the very first time in discussions regarding issues confronting the country's peasants.

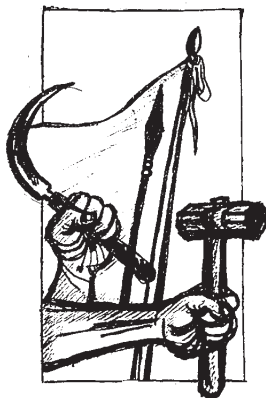
Mass actions were also held by farmers, fisherfolk and other sectors in various regions:

Cagayan Valley. A Two-Week Protest by Farmers from Cagayan Valley Against Landgrabbing, Militarization and Imperialist Plunder in Agriculture was launched.

On October 10, a dialogue was conducted in Barangay Sta. Maria, Cauayan, Isabela by the Anti-Coal Mining Movement of Isabela, DENR and the local government on a new coal-mining scheme in the towns of Cauayan, Benito Soliven and Naguilian, Isabela. Residents of Isabela once more registered their opposition to this destructive project in the dialogue joined by more than 350 farmers, teachers, students and church people from the three affected towns.

On October 16, some 500 church people, farmers and other militants staged a rally against the planting of Bt-corn in Isabela by Monsanto, an imperialist agribusiness company. This was followed by a mobilization on October 23 in front of the DAR and DENR offices attended by 1,000 people.

The First Congress of Danggayán dagiti Mannalon ti Cagayan Valley (Danggayán CV) was also held from October 20-22 in St. Ferdinand College, Ilagan, Isabela. The congress was ►



◀ attended by 45 delegates from Cagayan, Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya. Fifteen peasant leaders of Danggayán CV also held a dialogue with national officials of DAR and DENR. They filed 11 prominent cases involving agrarian problems. Among them were cases of widespread landgrabbing at the Sandoval Estate, Hacienda San Antonio-Sta. Isabel, Cagayan Economic Processing Zone Authority, Dimzon-Zulueta Estate and Roque Estate; and the continued denial of the peasants' right to the land in big haciendas in Benito Soliven and Roxas, Isabela and in Sto. Niño and Baggao in Cagayan.

The peasant campaign in Cagayan Valley reached its peak with the conduct of a picket-rally and a dialogue at the Region 2 offices of DAR and DENR in Tuguegarao City on October 23. More than 120 peasants from Cagayan, Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya joined the mass action.

Central Luzon. A Sakbayan (motorcade) was launched on October 18 by around 1,300 members of the Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon from Angeles City to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) office in Quezon City. They also called on the Macapagal-Arroyo regime to add P15 to the price subsidy for palay.

Southern Tagalog. Around 550 members of the Kalipunan ng Samahan ng mga Magsasaka sa Timog Katagalugan or KASAMA-TK held a picket on October 18 in front of the Department of Defense in Quezon City. They demanded the pullout of Task Force Banahaw from the region. In the evening, they joined the rally near

Malacañang and in front of the US embassy.

Bicol. Around 500 members of KMP-Bicol held a three-day (October 16-18) encampment outside the DA office in Camarines Sur. By October 19, the number of rallyists reached 5,000.

Visayas. From October 19-21, some 5,000 members of KMP-Cebu launched a Lakbayan/Sakbayan. There was a "Lugaw alang sa kalinaw" (porridge for peace) campaign on October 20. The last day of activities was highlighted by a region-wide dialogue of peasants. A march-rally was held in various parts of Cebu. The rallyists later converged for the final activity—a play that depicted the Filipino people's struggle against colonialists and present-day landgrabbers.

Meanwhile, 1,000 members of the FIFA picketed in front of the DA office in Iloilo City.

Mindanao. On October 19, around 1,500 members of KMP-Cotabato rallied in front of the DENR office at the center of Cotabato City. Around 2,000 members of KASAMA Bukidnon also launched a march-rally in Valencia, Bukidnon. On October 17, around 2,000 members of KMP, Masipag, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and other militant groups gathered at the Central Mindanao University in Maramag, Bukidnon to protest the field-testing of Bt-corn there. They formed an alliance against the entry or planting of genetically modified organisms or GMO in their area. Prior to this, 500 members of KASAMA Bukidnon picketed in front of the DA office in Cagayan de Oro.



WORKERS CONDEMN P30 COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCE

Thousands of workers and government employees conducted a huge protest action on October 25 to condemn and repudiate the recently approved P30 additional Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) in Metro Manila. They said that this was an insult to workers and employees in the face of worsening poverty and joblessness.

The measly wage increase was ordered even as the majority of Congress and Senate and Malacañang itself blocked the proposal for a P125 across-the-board wage increase (HB No. 6205). This, despite the endorsement on October 24 by the House Committee on Labor and Employment, of HB No. 2605 which was filed by Bayan Muna representatives.

Workers belonging to the Kilusang Mayo Uno gathered very early in the morning at Liwasang Bonifacio. They marched towards Mabuhay Rotonda in Quezon City where they converged with the urban poor, women, youth and

students and other democratic sectors. Demonstrators carried banners, placards and streamers that surrounded a giant effigy showing Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo aboard a military tank.

Measly as it is, the P30 COLA is to be given in two installments—the first half in November and the second in the latter half of February 2002.

The next wage increase was also set for February 2003.

And even with its being so far removed from the P125 just wage increase for workers, the Employer's Confederation of the Philippines has nonetheless opposed the P30 increase. It warned of additional workers' layoffs before the month of December.

INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC CRISIS



Layoffs. From January to September this year, 41,785 workers were retrenched and 37,239 were placed on job rotation.

Government debt. The government's total debts ballooned from P2.26 trillion (\$43.68 billion) in June to P2.3 trillion (\$44.4 billion) in July. Foreign debts account for P1.146 trillion.

Decline of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE). The PSE index further fell to 988.04, the lowest since October 11, 1991. Prior to this, market value had already fallen by 30% on October 9. The PSE is now considered as the second most sluggish market in the entire Southeast Asian region.

Growing budget deficit. The country's budget deficit reached P122.152 billion as of September this year. This is 1.6% in excess of the country's budget deficit target for the first nine months of 2001. The country earned P405.982 billion, or 0.9% lower than its target, while total expenditures reached P528.134 billion.

INVESTIGATION VS. MIGUEL ARROYO COMMENCES

The Senate investigation of Jose Miguel Arroyo, the president's husband, began on October 10. Arroyo is accused of having received P50 million in bribes in exchange for having his wife veto a law allowing the existence of a franchise monopoly to facilitate the interconnection of telecommunication services.

Arroyo is also being investigated for masterminding the illegal acquisition of P250 million from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to fund the campaign of four candidates under the People Power Coalition in the recently held elections.

IMELDA MARCOS WORMS WAY OUT OF JAIL AGAIN

Imelda Marcos has once again evaded imprisonment. The Sandiganbayan had ordered her arrest on graft charges on October 17, but she went free after posting bail worth P120,000. The case has to do with the establishment of sham foundations in the 1980s to launder around \$230 million in ill-gotten wealth deposited in Swiss banks.

In addition, Haydee Yorac,

chairperson of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), has likewise stated that the PCGG would welcome a settlement with the Marcoses, as the latter had requested. Macapagal-Arroyo herself also admitted as soon as she assumed the presidency, that she is open to making compromises with the plundering Marcos family regarding their ill-gotten wealth.

ANNOUNCEMENT

AB will regularly allot space for important announcements to the public by any leading Party organ. Examples of these would be the release of a new book or feature, cassette tapes or compact disks of songs, video tapes or video compact disks of revolutionary plays or movies, celebrations, tactical offensives, mass actions, documentations and other important matters. Kindly send your announcements to: editors@angbayan.org. It would be best to include a short explanation or elaboration on the content of the announcement.